There is no proposal to ban sale of fast food and cold drinks in canteens of educational institutions. It is always the endeavour of the Government to promote healthy life styles which also includes proper food nutrition.

Amendments to the drugs and cosmetics act

2516. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Drugs and Cosmetics Act is ineffective to deal with the various crimes relating to manufacture and sale of spurious drugs;

(b) if so, whether the NCT Government of Delhi has urged Government to bring suitable amendments in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to check such crimes; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, severe penalties have been prescribed for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the offences are punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 5 years but which may extend to a term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000/-.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has set up an expert committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashalkar, DG, CSIR and Secretary to Government of India to undertake a comprehensive review of the drugs regulatory system in the country including evaluation of the extent of spurious and sub-standard drugs, to effectively tackle the problem of spurious drugs and to recommend measures to be taken in this regard.

Asthma patients in Mumbai

2517. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Asthma patients is increasing in Mumbai city;